TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONVENTION REPORTS

WEST COLUMBIA SCHOOL—A WINNER

COMMITTEE HEADS ARE NAMED

MULTI-COAT WATERPROOFING

TOO MUCH THEORY TAUGHT?

ROLFE NAMED BY UNESCO

DECEMBER
1952

MANY LEADING TEXAS ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS PREFER

Featherlite
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EXPANDED SHALE AGGREGATE

EXPANDED SHALE CONCRETE

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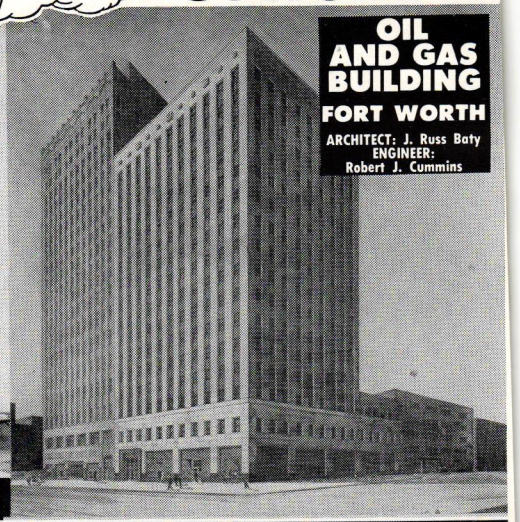
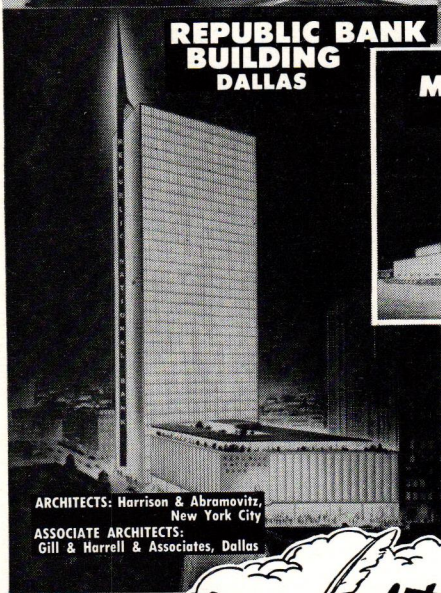
DALLAS
ARCHITECT-ENGINEER:
Wyatt C. Hedrick



OIL AND GAS BUILDING
FORT WORTH
ARCHITECT: J. Russ Baty
ENGINEER:
Robert J. Cummins



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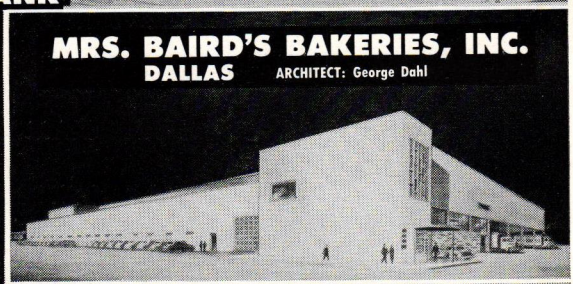

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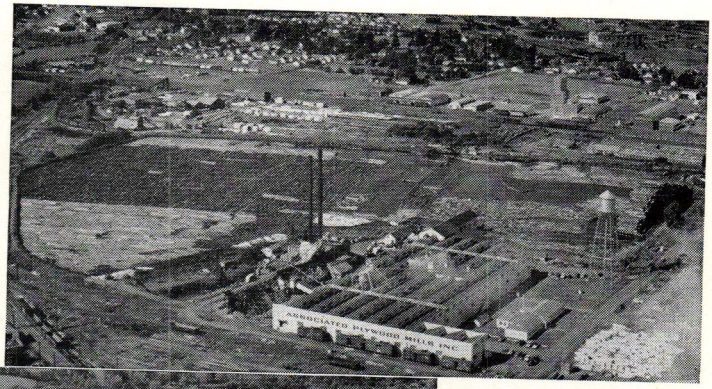

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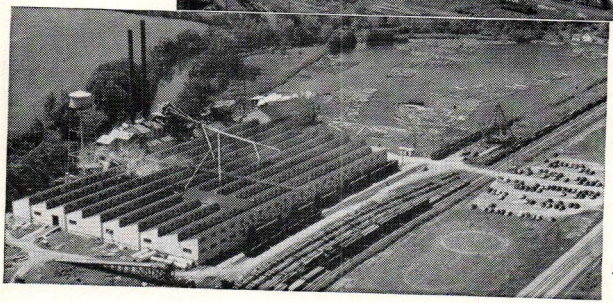
Plywood mill, Willamina, Oregon



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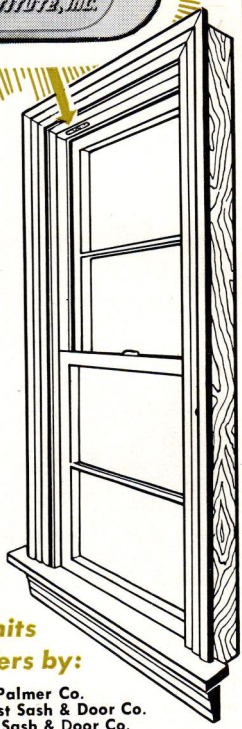

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 15-18—Winter examinations for registration, State Board of Architectural Examiners, Texas A. & M. College.

April 13-20, 1953—Texas Architects' Week.

February 14-19, 1953—American Association of School Administrators, Atlantic City, N. J.

June, 1953—84th annual convention, AIA, at Seattle, Wash.

October, 1953—14th annual convention, TSA, at Austin.

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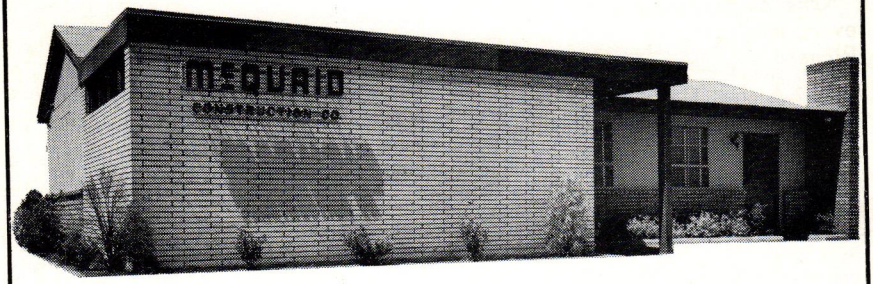

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TOO MUCH THEORY?

The El Paso convention, thanks to months of work by one of TSA's smaller chapters and the growing interest of the Society's unified membership, will be recorded as an all-round success.

Frankly, there was some skepticism as to how well members might attend a convention so far from the more centrally located portions of the state. The excellent turnout and the manner in which delegates participated in the El Paso program, however, show just how far TSA has progressed in recent years.

In this and succeeding issues, TA will report in full on many convention happenings. These reports will include an analysis and commentary on a stenographic record of the seminar which is now in preparation.

One of the most significant developments of the El Paso sessions, however, may revolve around a remark by a featured seminar participant, Richard J. Neutra. Mr. Neutra, without criticizing any particular school of architecture, questioned in general how well students are being prepared for the profession of architecture. In doing so, he adds his voice to the many well-known practitioners who have found serious fault with recent graduates of our architectural schools.

Every experienced architect in America today has sensed that the fledgling members of the profession are not grounded in necessary fundamentals. No one expects the recent graduate to show a high level of competence, especially in matters that depend more upon experience and years of actual practice. But there are too many reports of interviews or beginning jobs in which the newcomers reveal that they do not have the basic training upon which to build professional skill and judgment.

With many another member of his profession, Mr. Neutra believes that the architectural schools are turning out critics instead of practical architects. While he fully appreciates the need for theory, there is too much proof that students are being overfed in such areas as the theory of design and starved on the practical elements involved. The entire curriculum is oriented toward the theoretical approach, and the young architect is pulled off balance. He can criticize the work of another man, but his own fails completely to satisfy the fundamental problems at hand.

The result of training a century's supply of architectural critics each semester could obviously be disastrous. Nevertheless, student competitions over the nation reveal the same pattern again and again. Young would-be architects forget even the primary requirements of the problem in their haste to get involved in theory. Every architect who has judged these competitions knows how increasingly difficult it has become to find a proper balance of the practical and the theoretical.

Mr. Neutra's criticism is justified, and it is also constructive. His argument against training critics of architecture emphasizes one important fact: The profession itself can do a great deal to remedy the situation by helpful cooperation with the architectural schools.

(Continued on Page 19)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONSOLIDATED REPORTS

Year's Activities Summarized In 57-Page Bound Volume Prepared For Distribution At Annual Convention

The reports of the president, executive board, and committees were distributed at El Paso in an attractively prepared 57-page multilithed report. Highlights of the report follow:

The Texas State Department of Health and Texas Education Agency have proposed a committee to be made up of representatives of the Texas Association of School Business Officials, Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of School Boards, the TSA, and the groups proposing the committee. One activity of this group would be the production of a series of guides for school construction, renovation, and maintenance.

New Action Slated

New action will be taken on the Capitol Plan.

The Committee on Fees will continue to work on three areas which received major emphasis during 1952: (1) Improvement of fees paid by U. S. Engineers on A-E contracts; (2) improvement of fees on state work and (3) securing approval of fee schedule and contract form by Texas Construction Council.

The Education Committee will handle the details of the Featherlite Competition, which has been offered again by Featherlite and approved by the board, and continue to emphasize good will between teachers and practitioners.

The Legislative Committee, which has been increasingly active, has ready a program aimed at better liaison with state officials and representatives and recreation of the Capitol Plan Commission.

The public relations program shows steady progress. The TEXAS ARCHITECT is now firmly established and continues to grow in size and influence. More attention must be given to activities by the individual chapters, properly reported to the TA, and to winning increased public acceptance of, and confidence in, the profession of architecture. Texas Architects' Week will be a principal vehicle for this purpose.

Performance Bond Legislation

Insurance coverage under the Insurance Committee continues to expand, and is now at a point where administrative details should not be left upon one Society member. The Legislative Committee will be requested to seek corrective action on present legislation regarding performance bonds.

The Professional Practices Committee will continue to work on developing a form of owner-architect service agreement adapted to use in Texas, and will cooperate closely with the Legislative Committee and with the membership in general on standards of professional practice.

The Committee on Professional Society Relations is undertaking preliminary investigations in regard to the feasibility of working with the engineers of Texas on a modern statewide building code.

New Foundation Activated

The Texas Architectural Foundation is now operative and will launch an increasing program to secure funds to assist educational undertakings. Arthur E. Thomas will serve as president and Donald S. Nelson as secretary-treasurer.

At El Paso, 12 officers and board members pose for the photographer. Left to right are: (standing) Fred J. MacKie, Houston; Arthur Fehr, Austin; Ed Carroll, El Paso; Ernest Langford, College Station; Raymond Phelps, San Antonio; Otto Thorman, El Paso; and Arch Swank, Dallas. Kneeling: Macon O. Carder, Amarillo; Herbert Tatum, Dallas; Albert S. Golemon, Houston; Jack Corgan, Dallas; and Reginald Roberts, San Antonio.

REGISTRATION LIST AT EL PASO

The following list, prepared by the Registration Committee of the El Paso Chapter, shows convention registrations through 1:30 p.m. of Friday, October 31. Total convention attendance, including wives of delegates, suppliers, and guests, was approximately 230.

BRAZOS CHAPTER, Arch C. Baker, College Station, Ernest Langford, College Station.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER, Austin: Charles Granger, Arthur Fehr, Martin S. Kermacy, Glynn L. Harris; Temple: Lee R. Buttrill; Odessa: F. Delmar Groos.

DALLAS CHAPTER, Jack Corgan, Ralph Bryan, George L. Dahl, Terrell R. Harper, Donald S. Nelson, A. B. Swank, Herbert M. Tatum, Arthur E. Thomas.

EL PASO CHAPTER, M. O. Bynum, Edwin W. Carroll, Theodore Crocker, Louis Daeuble, Dana Howard, English Hugh, John P. Foster, R. D. Garland, Jr., Clarence M. Higgins, Richard H. Licht, James E. Monroe, Jr., Percy W. McGhee, Robert A. Nelson, Duffy P. Stanley, William F. Thorpe, Jr., Dorris Belle Turner, Ewing Waterhouse, William G. Wuehrmann, Carl J. Young.

FORT WORTH CHAPTER, Paul T. Cahil, Hubert Hammond Crane, Charles T. Freelove, Preston M. Geren, A. G. King, Jos. J. Patterson, George S. Sowden, Edward L. Wilson, Robert P. Woltz, Jr.

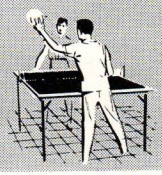
HOUSTON CHAPTER, David C. Baer, Howard Barnstone, Donald Barthelme, Hamilton Brown, A. G. Engberg, Albert S. Golemon, Thomas E. Greacen, II, R. Graham Jackson, Karl Kamrath, Robert F. Lent, Fred J. MacKie, Jr., Marshall

(Continued on Page 17)

TEACH

EAT and

PLAY



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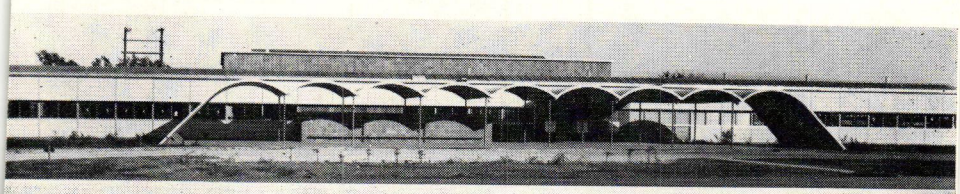


This is the West Columbia Elementary School, designed by Donald Barthelme, TSA-AIA, Houston, which took the first honor award in the Texas Architecture—1952 competition at Dallas.

Comments by jury: "This project is first of all a brilliant design. A fresh and well studied plan conception has been coupled with painstaking care in detailing and execution. Taking advantage of all the contributions of technological progress, the architects have used them in a light, colorful, apparently effortless way, to capture some of the essence of delight in architecture".

A full story, with pictures, is carried on the West Columbia school in the October, 1952 issue of ARCHITECTURAL FORUM.

Are Educators Themselves To Blame?

(Last month we printed a letter to ARCHITECTURAL FORUM, published in that magazine last June, by Dean W. R. Woolrich of the College of Engineering at the University of Texas. TA also published a reply to Dean Woolrich, by the Public Relations Committee of the Central Texas Chapter, TSA.

Because of space limitations, we could not carry until this issue a further interesting exchange of opinion between Dean Woolrich and the Central Texas Committee, the chairman of which is Charles Granger, TSA-AIA, of Austin. This month, the Central Texas Chapter asks Dean Woolrich if educators themselves might not be to blame for the alleged shortcomings of architectural teaching. (See also "Too Much Theory" in this issue.)

First, a September 22 letter from Dean Woolrich, in reply to the Central Texas Chapter:

Sept. 22, 1952

Mr. Charles T. Granger
502 E. Fifth Street
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Granger:

There is not much question but what the civilized world is experiencing a revolution and delineation of scientific and philosophic thinking. Historic accomplishment must be recognized as excellent for datum planes but procedures of yesterday must give way to new concepts.

My contact with the architectural profession has been rather extensive for many years. In fact, I have been close enough to it that for the past two decades I have been concerned about the decreasing confidence of the general public in the rank and file of practicing architects both in North America and Great Britain. It was largely for this reason that I joined with the Administration of the University in recommending the bringing in of a Director whom we believe could recapture much of the confidence of the public in the several phases of architectural education.

Unfortunately, the profession has been too prone to satisfy its pride of accomplishment by the pointing out of the beauty and utility of large outstanding structures. Yet your own professional leaders point out the relatively small percentage of middle class homes that are being built under the direction of a recognized architect today. It is possible that the modern architect is losing the recognition of this great class of middle class Americans in his desire to gain the approbation of a class of clients of a higher economic level.

Personally, I would like to see the profession regain some of its lost prestige. However, in an age that is primarily scientific I am confident that it can not maintain its position in the sun unless it gives much time and thought to basic scientific research of modern buildings, especially within the walls.

From an observer's position it would appear that the architectural profession needs today to make a reappraisal of its educational objectives and procedures, if it is to maintain its relative position with the sciences and engineering.

Complimentary to this reappraisal should come a more profound appreciation of the facets of fundamental research that affect the architectural structure and man's relation to it.

In your capacity as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Central Texas Chapter of AIA you have a major opportunity to regain some of this lost confidence. There is little question but what the new thinking in California, Texas and some middle western centers is far out in front of the eastern exhibits.

This nation always expects the architects of the Southwest and West to do the unusual things and they have quite generally performed much better west of

(Continued on Page 19)

President-Elect Names Committee Chairmen

President-elect Albert S. Golemon has named the following TSA committee chairmen for 1953: Capital Plan, Karl Kamrath, Houston; Texas Construction Council, Grayson Gill, Dallas; Architectural Government Relations, Robert P. Woltz, Ft. Worth; School Plant Study, Lee Roy Buttrill, Temple; Insurance, Harry D. Payne, Houston; Education, Thomas E. Greacen, 11, Houston; Professional Practice, Terrell Harper, Dallas; By-Laws, Herbert Tatum, Dallas; Public Relations, David C. Baer, Houston; Professional Society Relations, Jack Corgan, Dallas; Fee Committee, Reginald H. Roberts, San Antonio; 1953 Convention, Arthur Fehr, Austin; Legislative, Max Brooks, Austin.

MULTIPLE-COAT WATERPROOFING

By: L. F. Bramble, president, Gulf States Asphalt Company

Chemical Properties May Result In Waterproofing or Membrane Failure; Exudation, Sudative Reaction Discussed

There are no fundamental problems involved in one-coat application of damp-proofing or waterproofing. However, when multiple coats such as a primer and a subsequent application of bituminous waterproofing are used, or membrane application is required, serious complications may develop.

Certain physical and chemical characteristics of bitumens can result in complete waterproofing or membrane failure. Exudation or sudative reaction generally occurs when two bituminous waterproofings of different origin come into contact. These reactions are considerably accelerated when the waterproofings are basically different, such as a tar base primer and an asphalt base mastic or semimastic.

Tar & Asphalt Bitumens

Tar and asphalt bitumens are generally incompatible. Their sudative reaction has been found to result in blistering and softening the exterior coating. In certain cases, extensive slipping results. Waterproofing specifications which permit the use of two distinct and non-compatible types of waterproofings as alternates in membrane work are ill-advised. They open the way for the contractor to use, ethically, a tar primer and asphalt membrane coating or vice-versa.

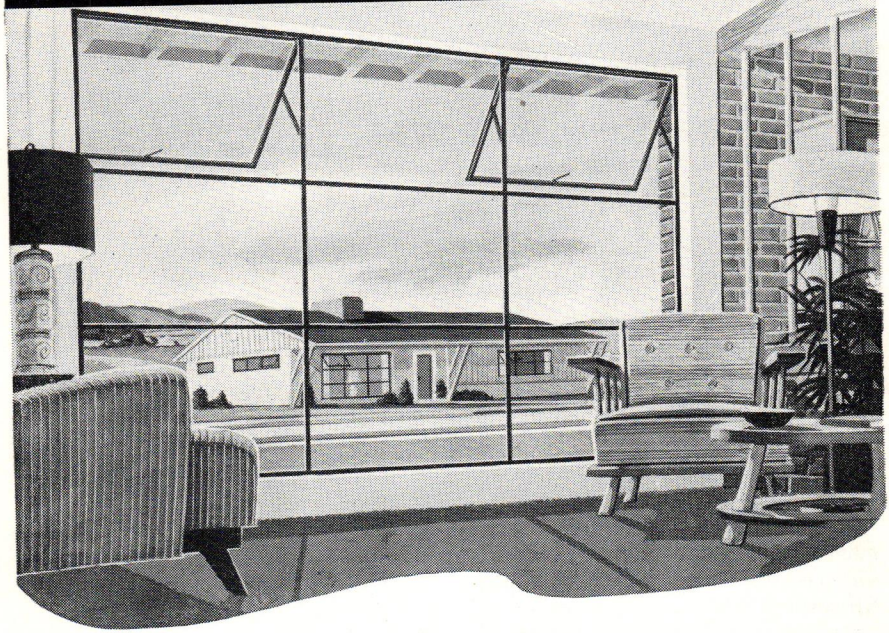
Where this has actually happened, close examination of the waterproofing membrane may indicate a critical condition. There is a possibility in some cases of complete slippage along vertical surfaces within a relatively short period of time. This may happen, even though all the materials have been manufactured by well-known and dependable sources and the trade names in every instance were entirely reputable.

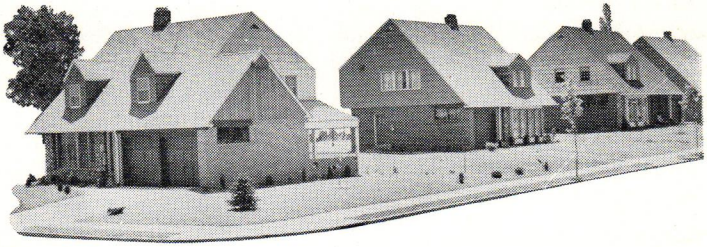
Correct Combination Materials

The problem resolves itself into specifying a correct combination of materials. Better still, when multiple coats are required, it should be required that all materials be of the same origin and manufactured by the same manufacturer.

The normal salesman, however well-intentioned, is not always competent to offer technical advice on waterproofing. Where there is any doubt, or where the brand name or trade-name of the individual waterproofing products do not indicate their type of base, a reputable industrial laboratory should be consulted.

here's a new product for you—





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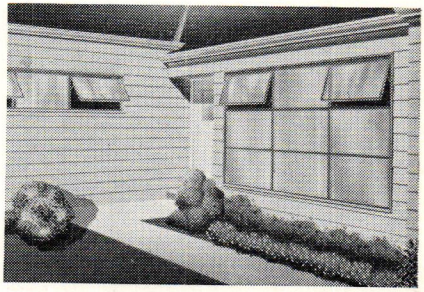
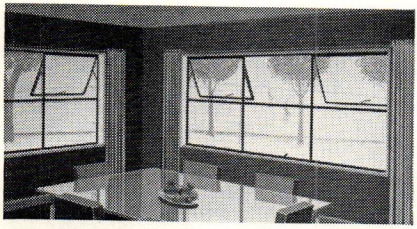
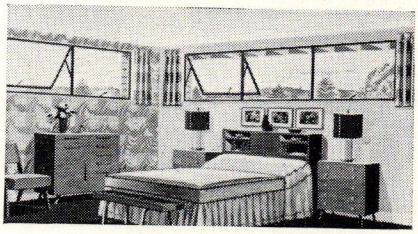


Special Features—The Ranch Window in the larger sizes provides an attractive living-room picture window which, when viewed from the outside, tends to minimize the "wide open"





effect characteristic of a large undivided glass area. The medium size units fit very conveniently into window openings for dining rooms, dens and libraries. In the smaller units, the windows are admirably suited for sleeping rooms.

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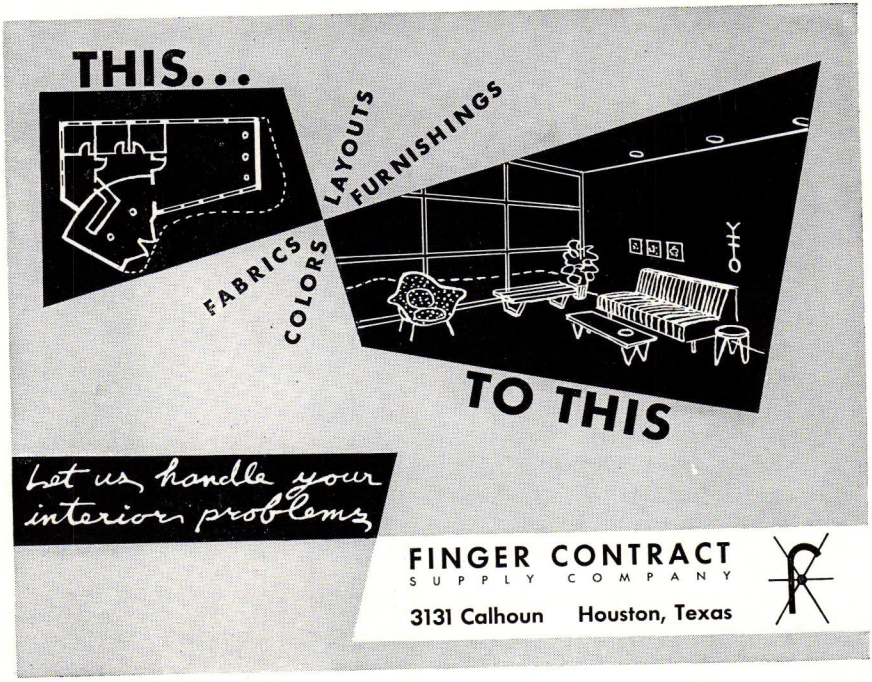
What Others Are Doing

The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BULLETIN describes a meeting between the Los Angeles school board and Chapter representatives during a controversy over 8% fees for designing of schools. The representatives took along "graphs, charts, and sets of plans, specifications, and correspondence files to show the board just exactly what work is involved in designing a school and where the architect's fee is spent." The architects asked the school board to maintain the present fee of 8%, with renegotiation after completion of working drawings to "give credit for any portion of the work performed by board's own architectural and building offices." A final decision is pending.

The BULLETIN of the Indiana Society of Architects contains this quotation by Pablo Picasso, from a recent issue of the "National Sculpture Review": "I am celebrated, I am rich. But when I am face to face with myself I have not the courage to consider myself an artist in the great and ancient sense of the word. . . . It is a bitter concession, sadder than it may seem, but it has the merit of being sincere."

The WISCONSIN ARCHITECT reports the following items on the program of the North Central States Regional Conference at St. Paul, Minn., November 7-8: Seminar on "Moisture In Masonry Walls," "North African Architecture," "The University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus," and "The Recent Building Program, The St. Paul Public Schools."



News of the Chapters

DALLAS—A discussion of city building codes followed a speech by Walter H. Scales, consultant for the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Scales was introduced by Raymond H. Cummings, assistant chief of the building inspection division, City of Dallas. Honorary membership has been awarded to Frank O. Witchell, Sr. Work is progressing on an intensified public relations program, following speeches by representatives of the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas County Medical Society on professional relationships.

CENTRAL TEXAS—New officers for 1953 have been elected as follows: Louis Southerland, president; Martin S. Kermacy, vice-president; Allwyn Gannaway, treasurer; and Emil Niggili, secretary.

HOUSTON—The November meeting was held the evening of Armistice Day at the Ramada Club. Discussion topics for the evening included a number of current professional problems, a review of progress on study of the proposed Houston building code, and the Chapter exhibit in connection with the Allied Arts Festival. Thousands of Houstonians saw the exhibit.

New corporate member: Leon Blum Wooters. New junior associates: James Barrett Cooper and Lewis S. Maguire.

FORT WORTH—The chapter held a joint meeting with members of the Air-Conditioning Association, to discuss problems and developments in installations. A letter of condolence was authorized on the death of J. H. Gaylord.

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Barthelme Heads Dallas Award List

Donald Barthelme's West Columbia elementary school won for the Houston architect and teacher the highest honor award at the "Texas Architecture—1952" competition sponsored by the Dallas Chapter at the Texas State Fair. Citations were presented at El Paso.

Four other entries by Houston architects, including a second design by Barthelme, won awards of merit in the competition, which was seen by hundreds of thousands of Texans at the Dallas fair. All were shown at the El Paso convention, and are on exhibit now in Andover, Massachusetts.

Other Winners Listed

Other winners were: Houston: Howard Barnstone, Herbert Blum residence at Beaumont; Donald Barthelme & Associates, Sweeny (Tex.) elementary school; Hamilton Brown, residence of Judge Wilmer B. Hunt; Hermon Lloyd, W. B. Morgan, and Milton McGinty, Rice Institute stadium; Bryan: Caudill, Rowlett & Scott, for Albany (Tex.) elementary school; San Antonio: Milton A. Ryan, residences of Duane A. Berry and of Mrs. Lucy Dunwoody; and Dallas: George L. Dahl for Employers Insurance Company.

Because of a delay in transit, two entries by Fred MacKie and Karl Kamrath did not reach Dallas in time for judgment.

Judges for the exhibit, in which TSA and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts cooperated, were Robert Alexander, Los Angeles; Douglas Haskell of New York, editor of House & Home; Arch Swank, TSA-AIA, and President Herbert Tatum.

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Bolton & Barnstone New Houston Firm

Preston Bolton and Howard Barnstone have formed a partnership for the practice of architecture at 3106 Brazos, Houston 6. Announcements of the new firm were mailed in November.

Registration List—

(Continued From Page 7)

S. McDougal, Milton B. McGinty, Arthur E. Nutter, Abel B. Pierce, Jr., Walter T. Rolfe, Baldwin N. Young.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER: Harlingen; John G. York.

TEXAS PANHANDLE CHAPTER, Lubbock: James Atcheson, W. L. Bradshaw, R. Turner Kimmel, F. A. Kleinschmidt; Amarillo: Macon O. Carder, Robert E. Hucker; Big Spring: Olen L. Puckett.

WEST TEXAS CHAPTER, San Antonio: Dahl Dewees, Raymond Phelps, Reginald Roberts, Milton A. Ryan.

TSA Represented At Point Clear And Mexico City

Three TSA members attended the semi-annual meeting of the AIA board at Point Clear, Ala., October 26-29. They were Maurice Sullivan and David C. Baer of Houston, and Ed Wilson of Fort Worth. Mr. Sullivan is treasurer of the AIA, Mr. Baer has taken a key part in reorganizing recommended accounting procedures for the national group, and Mr. Wilson is regional director.

TSA was also represented at the Pan American Congress of Architects last month in Mexico City, by Kenneth Franzheim and George F. Pierce, Jr., of Houston, and Harwell Harris and Hugh McMath of Austin. Mr. Harwell and Mr. McMath were in charge of a delegation of 22 students, comprising the entire fifth-year class in architecture at the University of Texas, who attended the Congress.

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Too Much Theory? . . . (Continued From Page 5)

We believe the membership will agree that the present-day emphasis on theory has become unsound. The question then becomes this: Now can the TSA best serve the profession, the general public, and our students and schools of architecture in effecting a change? Possibly a first step would be the appointment of a committee to make a constructive survey of the entire situation in Texas.

Are Educators To Blame?—
(Continued From Page 10)

the Allegheny Mountains than they have in the Eastern areas. I envy you your opportunity to make a real contribution to American Architecture and give it an injection that it can well use.

Yours very sincerely,
W. R. Woolrich
Dean of Engineering

The reply by the Central Texas Chapter:

14 November, 1952

Dean W. R. Woolrich
College of Engineering
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Dean Woolrich:

We have delayed answering your letter of 22 September until after the recent state convention of the Texas Society of Architects, in order that we might discuss with architects from all sections of the state "The Gropius' Controversy" and your statement in the June, 1952 issue of the Architectural Forum. It was the general consensus of opinion that it is most regretable that a feeling of competition between the engineer, scientist, and architects should exist when actually these men should be cooperating members of a team which is vitally concerned with creating physical environment conducive to the fullest physical, cultural and spiritual development of our society.

You stated in your letter that "Unfortunately, the profession has been too prone to satisfy its pride of accomplishment by the pointing out of the beauty and utility of large outstanding structures. Yet your own professional leaders point out the relatively small percentage of middle class homes that are being built under the direction of a recognized architect today. It is possible that the modern architect is losing the recognition of this great class of middle class Americans in his desire to gain the approbation of a class of clients of a higher economic level". We will agree that the first portion of your statement has in the past been correct, but we feel that you are entirely wrong in the last portion of your statement that modern archi-

(Continued on Page 20)

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Walter T. Rolfe Named To Commission For UNESCO By AIA

Just as TA went to press December 10, we learned that Walter T. Rolfe, FAIA-TSA, of Golemon & Rolfe, Houston, has been named by the AIA to sit on the U. S. national commission for UNESCO.

Details of this important appointment will be carried in January.

Are Educators To Blame?

(Continued From Page 19)

tecture is losing recognition of the great class of middle class Americans. The fact that only a relatively small portion of the housing for this group of citizens is done by architects is due primarily to the fact that building material suppliers, loan institutions, etc., continue to offer "Free Plans to Prospective Home Builders". This is a similar condition that exists when air conditioning contractors and structural steel suppliers offer "Free Engineering Service to Architects". This free engineering service has largely been eliminated because the architectural profession has preferred to retain registered professional engineers in private practice to perform these services. Unfortunately the general public has not seen fit to demand quality through planning in its homes and they are therefore inclined to be receptive to the free plan service mentioned above.

We concur that a reappraisal of the educational objective is required, however, it strikes us that this basic statement applies equally in engineering and scientific training and innumerable other professional fields. It appears to us that the unfortunate lack of cooperation and petty jealousies in educational fields which exist between various departments and schools are basic causes of much of the short comings which you have mentioned, and we wonder if it is not the educators who must re-evaluate their methods and objectives. It has been our experience and observation that many professional graduates both in engineering and architecture have learned a "pattern" but not the ability to analyze, reason, and think.

As far as the basic attitude of the architectural profession of Texas is concerned with respect to this over all problem, the editorial in the inclosed copy of the Texas Architect, we believe, does set forth its position with relation to the "Gropius' Controversy".

Your concern and interest in the architectural profession are appreciated, and we hope they will continue active and expanding.

Cordially,

Pubic Relations Committee
Central Texas Chapter, American Institute of Architects

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